

span of Russian history.—James Cobb Mills, Jr., *Utica College of Syracuse University*.

Nicknames and Sobriquets of U.S. Cities and States. 2d ed. By Joseph Nathan Kane and Gerald L. Alexander. Metuchen, N.J.: The Scarecrow Press, 1970. 456p. \$10.00.

What's in a name? Would a rose by any nickname really smell as sweet? Apparently Americans think so because you name it and we have a nickname for it. If there is a city without a nickname, the public relations agent will quickly devise one for it.

When Joseph Nathan Kane in 1938 published the first edition of his now famous fact book, he included in it a few nicknames of cities. In 1951 the Special Libraries Association published *Nicknames of American Cities, Towns, and Villages (Past and Present)*, compiled by Gerald L. Alexander. The friendship of these two men resulted in a joint effort published in 1965. Five years of additional research has produced an expanded second edition including many additions and corrections.

The book is arranged alphabetically by states and subdivided by cities; under the name of each city are listed all known nicknames, sobriquets, and even publicity slogans which have been applied to that city. Following this is an alphabetical nickname index. There is a similar arrangement for the fifty states. Separating the city and state listings and given in alphabetical sequence are the All-American Cities so designated since 1949 by the National Municipal League and *Look* magazine. It is explained that the use of this sobriquet is authorized only for use one year following the presentation of the award.

The compilation should prove useful as a ready reference tool. Unfortunately, it is not a scholarly work such as Shankle's *American Nicknames* (H. W. Wilson, 1955). No sources are given. It would be interesting to learn the source of "The Friendly City" and "The City of Friendly People" as sobriquets for New York. Occasional parenthetical explanations of the nicknames are included, such as "(Ind.) The Band City (produces over 60

percent of band instruments)." Others are too brief to be meaningful as "Pullman (Ill.) The City of Brick (part of Chicago)." On the other hand about five times as many cities are included as in Shankle, and many more nicknames are given for most cities and states. However, many of the nicknames included seem more like contrived publicity slogans than familiar epithets naturally ascribed.

The book is printed by offset press in a clear, legible, although unattractive, type. A few typographical errors and omissions escaped the proofreaders, but in general, editing seems to have been carefully done.

It is to be hoped that the authors have preserved their sources and their notes on the origins and the use of the nicknames included so that a future edition can be a full, scholarly contribution to work on American names.—Paul H. Spence, *College of General Studies Library, University of Alabama, Birmingham*.

Index to American Little Magazines 1920-1939. Stephen H. Goode, comp. Troy, N.Y.: Whitston Publishing Co., 1969. 346p. \$12.50.

If we accept the maxim that half a loaf is better than none, it follows, perhaps, that a partial index such as Stephen Goode's *Index to American Little Magazines 1920-1939* is better than no index at all. This is, as Mr. Goode indicates, an index of a "selected list" of thirty-three little magazines. What Mr. Goode fails to indicate, and it is a significant failing, is the basis for his selection. One is always grateful for an index to any previously unindexed material however meager it may be; yet that gratitude cannot help but be tempered by a disappointment that a less arbitrary selection of magazines to be indexed would have been enormously more interesting and valuable.

The period 1920-1939 was unquestionably, in Mr. Goode's words, part of "the golden age of little magazines." It is the age of *The Little Review* at its height, *This Quarter*, *Laughing Horse*, *Dynamo*, *The Measure*, *Chicago Literary Times*, *The Transatlantic Review*, *American Spectator*, *Direction*, *The Booster*, *S 4 N*, the beginning of *Furioso*, and many more. Yet of